THE

VOICE OF JOSEPH,

A

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE RISE, PROGRESS, & PERSECUTIONS

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF

LATTER-DAY SAINTS;

WITH THEIR PRESENT POSITION AND PROSPECTS

IN

UTAH TERRITORY,

TOGETHER WITH

"AMERICAN EXILES' MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS."

BY

LORENZO SNOW,

One of the Twelve Apostles.

ABBREVIATED FROM THE ITALIAN EDITION.

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PREFACE.

To correct the misrepresentations which are abroad in this country in reference to the people styled Latter-day Saints, and more fully to satisfy the public enquiry in regard to the principles and character of that people, the Author has concluded to present a sketch of the foundation of their Church, a brief history of their progress, persecutions, and expulsion from the States of Missouri and Illinois, and a general view of their present location, settlements, and government, in Upper California.

Also a brief account of the missionary labours of their Elders; and the prosperity attendant upon their exertions in preaching the Gospel throughout the United States, Canada, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and other countries.

AUTHOR.

THE VOICE OF JOSEPH.

JOSEPH SMITH, junior, whom it pleased the Lord to select and appoint to restore the primitive Gospel and apostolic Priesthood, was born in 1805, in Vermont, United States. When about fifteen years of age, being seriously impressed with the necessity of seeking the Lord and preparing for a future state, his mind became much perplexed through difficulties thrown in the path of his researches by the multitude of religious sects and parties with which he was surrounded. Each system required belief, and gave hope; but none could communicate a knowledge of its Divine authority. In comparing them one with another there seemed too much confusion; the same also appeared in looking at each separately. Turning therefore from these clashing systems, and being encouraged and inspired with the following passage in St. James, "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God;" he retired to a grove a little distance from his father's house, and in fervent prayer besought the Lord to communicate with him, and reveal the way of salvation. While thus engaged, a light brilliant and glorious appeared in the heavens, gradually descending towards him till he was enveloped in it, and wrapped in celestial vision; when he beheld two glorious beings similar in dress and appearance, who informed him that the religious sects had all departed from the ancient doctrine of the apostles, and that the Gospel, with its gifts and blessings, should be made known to him at a future period. Many important things were manifested in this vision, which the brevity of this work will not permit us to notice.

On the evening of the 21st of September, 1823, having retired to rest, his mind became filled with anxious desires to receive the information which he had been previously promised. While engaged in prayer, and striving to exercise faith, the room became filled with light far surpassing that of noonday, but in the midst thereof appeared an additional glory surrounding a person whose countenance was as lightning, yet so full of goodness, and innocence, and of such a glorious appearance as to banish all apprehension. He announced himself as an angel of God, commissioned to inform him that the covenant with ancient Israel touching their posterity should soon be accomplished,—that the great work preparatory to the second coming of Messiah should speedily commence, and the plenitude of the Gospel be made known to all nations. He also informed him that the Aborigines of America were a remnant of Israel, who, when they first inhabited that land, enjoyed the ministry of inspired men; that records of the most important events in their history had been preserved from their first settlement down to the period of their national degeneracy; that these records had been concealed in the earth by one of their last Prophets, and a promise of the Lord given that they should be revealed in the last days.

The day following the angel returned and instructed Mr. Smith to go to the place where those sacred registers were deposited. On reaching the spot he found a stone projecting a little above the surface of the ground, and covering a kind of box made of the same material. On removing this cover, he beheld the plates on which the records were engraved, but the angel of the

Lord again appeared and said, " 'You cannot at this time obtain this record, for the commandment of God is strict, and if ever these sacred things are obtained, they must be by prayer and faithfulness in obeying the Lord. They are not deposited here for the sake of accumulating gain and wealth for the glory of this world ; they were sealed by the prayer of faith, and because of the knowledge which they contain ; they are of no worth among the children of men only for their knowledge. On them is contained the fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as it was given to his people on this land ; and when it shall be brought forth by the power of God, it shall be carried to the Gentiles, of whom many will receive it, and after will the seed of Israel be brought into the fold of their Redeemer by obeying it also. Those who kept the commandments of the Lord on this land desired this at his hand, and through the prayer of faith obtained the promise, that if their descendants should transgress and fall away, a record should be kept, and in the last days come to their children. These things are sacred, and must be kept so, for the promise of the Lord concerning them must be fulfilled. No man can obtain them if his heart is impure, because they contain that which is sacred. * * * By them will the Lord work a great and marvellous work ; the wisdom of the wise shall become as nought, and the understanding of the prudent shall be hid, and because the power of God shall be displayed, those who profess to know the truth but walk in deceit shall tremble with anger ; but with signs and with wonders, with gifts and with healings, with the manifestations of the power of God, and with the Holy Ghost, shall the hearts of the faithful be comforted. You have now beheld the power of God manifested, and the power of Satan ; you see that there is nothing desirable in the works of darkness ; that they cannot bring happiness ; that those who are overcome therewith are miserable ; while, on the other hand, the righteous are blessed with a place in the kingdom of God, where joy unspeakable surrounds them. There they rest beyond the power of the enemy of truth, where no evil can disturb them. The glory of God crowns them, and they continually feast upon his goodness and enjoy his smiles. Behold, notwithstanding you have seen this great display of power by which you may ever be able to detect the evil one, yet I give unto you another sign, and when it comes to pass, then know the Lord is God, and that he will fulfil his purposes, and that the knowledge which this record contains will go to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people under the whole heaven. This is the sign : and when these things begin to be known, that is, when it is known that the Lord has shown you these things, the workers of iniquity will seek your overthrow. They will circulate falsehoods to destroy your reputation, and also will seek to take your life ; but remember this, if you are faithful, and shall hereafter continue to keep the commandments of the Lord, you shall be preserved to bring these things forth ; for in due time he will give you a commandment to come and take them. When they are interpreted, the Lord will give the holy priesthood to some, and they shall begin to proclaim this Gospel and baptize by water, and after that they shall have power to give the Holy Ghost by the laying on of their hands. Then will persecution rage more and more ; for the iniquities of men shall be revealed, and those who are not built upon the Rock will seek to overthrow the Church : but it will increase the more opposed, and spread farther and farther, increasing in knowledge till they shall be sanctified, and receive an inheritance where the glory of God will rest upon them ; and when this takes place, and all things are prepared, the ten tribes of Israel will be revealed in the north country, whither they have been for a long season ; and when this is fulfilled will be brought to pass that saying of the Prophet, 'And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord.' But notwithstanding the workers of iniquity shall seek your destruction, the arm of the Lord will be extended, and you will be borne off conqueror if you keep all his commandments. Your name shall be known among the nations, for the work which the Lord will perform by your hands shall cause the righteous to rejoice and the wicked

to rage ; with the one it shall be had in honour, and with the other in reproach ; yet with these it shall be a terror, because of the great and marvellous work which shall follow the coming forth of this fulness of the Gospel. Now, go thy way, remembering what the Lord hath done for thee, and be diligent in keeping his commandments, and he will deliver thee from temptations and all the arts and devices of the wicked one. Forget not to pray, that thy mind may become strong, that when he shall manifest unto thee thou mayest have power to escape the evil and obtain these precious things.' " *

During the following four years he frequently received instruction from the mouth of this heavenly messenger, and on the 22nd of September, 1827, the records were placed in his hands.

They were engraved in Egyptian characters on plates having the appearance of gold, and measuring about seven or eight inches in length and breadth ; not quite so thick as ordinary tin. All were held together by three rings, and formed a volume of about six inches in thickness : one portion of which was sealed : the characters or letters on the unsealed part were very diminutive, but perfectly engraved.

By the gift and power of God, Mr. Smith translated them into the English language, but as he could not write well, he received the aid of a person who wrote down the translation which he gave by word of mouth. This important work is called the Book of Mormon, from the name of an ancient Prophet who by Divine commandment had been engaged in its compilation. We there find an account of two distinct races who inhabited the American continent.

The first came from the Tower of Babel ; but after fifteen or sixteen centuries their iniquity became so great that they were entirely destroyed, even as the Lord had threatened them by the mouth of holy Prophets, the last of whom left their history engraved on plates of gold. These were found by the second race, who were a remnant of Joseph, led forth in a miraculous manner from Jerusalem during the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah. Their history is brought down to the year four hundred and twenty of the Christian Era, when by commandment of God, it was hid in the earth till revealed as before stated. After the Book of Mormon was translated, the Lord called witnesses, who have left the following testimony to the world.

THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES.

"Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken ; and we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us ; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates ; and they have been shewn unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon ; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true ; and it is marvellous in our eyes ; nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it ; wherefore to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honour be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

" OLIVER COWDERY.
" DAVID WHITMER.
" MARTIN HARRIS."

* Remarkable Visions. By Elder O. Pratt, p. 4.

AND ALSO THE TESTIMONY OF EIGHT WITNESSES.

"Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that Joseph Smith, jun., the translator of this work, has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated, we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shewn unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety, that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen; and we lie not, God bearing witness of it.

" CHRISTIAN WHITMER.	" HIRAM PAGE.
" JACOB WHITMER.	" JOSEPH SMITH, SEN.
" PETER WHITMER JUN.	" HYRUM SMITH.
" JOHN WHITMER.	" SAMUEL H. SMITH."

In the year 1829, Mr. Smith and Mr. Cowdery, having learned the proper manner of Baptism from the instructions contained in the Book of Mormon, they desired to receive that ordinance; but knowing that no one among the different denominations had authority to administer, they sought for a revelation upon the subject, and an angel appeared unto them while they were in prayer, laid his hands upon their heads, and ordained them to the Priesthood, and commanded them to baptize one another.

In the year 1830, a large edition of the book of Mormon was printed; and as some began to read its sacred pages, the Spirit of the Lord bore witness to its truth, and they obeyed its requirements: repenting in humility before the Lord, they were immersed in water for the remission of sins, and received the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

On the 6th of April, 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organised in the town of Fayette, Seneca county, State of New York. Several persons were called, and ordained by the Spirit of revelation and prophecy, and began to preach and bear testimony; and although they were the feeble things of the earth, they became mighty by the Holy Spirit.

As they travelled forth, bearing their testimony, the attention of all classes was aroused. Many honest-hearted persons came forward, were baptized, received the gift of the Holy Ghost, and knowledge of the truth of the principles. Others mocked, derided, slandered, and raised the weapons of persecution. Not stopping a moment to examine whether the restoration of ancient Gospel privileges *was* or *was not Scriptural* doctrine, they foolishly reasoned themselves into the conclusion, that it was justifiable to use any means, however wrong and cruel, to hinder the progress of those principles. I am sorry to say, yet duty requires the statement, that, in many instances, Ministers of Religious denominations would indulge in the same reasoning, and by false reports, misrepresentations, and slanders, stir up the evil-minded to persecute the servants of God. It is to instances of this kind that we have often traced the original cause of many scenes of spoliation and murder, which we have experienced during the past twenty years of our pilgrimage.

In the year 1831, the Saints established a settlement in Lake county, State of Ohio. One thousand miles from this place, in Jackson county, State of Missouri, they also made another settlement about the same time. The history of the Saints who settled in Ohio, will first be noticed, afterwards, that of those at the last mentioned location.

In Lake county having increased in numbers to several hundreds, and having no convenient place for public worship, a Temple was commenced for this purpose. Its dimensions, form, and order were shown of the Lord in vision; and it was built according to the pattern shown. In accomplishing this work they experienced severe opposition from their enemies, who were determined no such building should be erected, and sought every means in

their power to harass, perplex, and annoy them ; employing the most wicked, and disgraceful measures to hinder their operations. At this infantile stage of the Church's progress, mobs had not become so emboldened in that part of the country, as to appear and come against the Saints in *day-light ;* but in the *night time*, in parties of fifty or sixty, clothed in disguise, they would steal in upon them, for the purpose generally of destroying their property. Guards were obliged to be kept up by the Saints, to preserve themselves against these depredations. Notwithstanding their utmost vigilance, however, in many instances property was plundered and destroyed. Lawsuits would frequently be instituted, without the least cause whatever, except to weary, harass, and torment an unoffending and innocent people. Notwithstanding these oppositions and perplexities, a magnificent Temple was completed, and dedicated to the Lord in the presence of thousands. The day of blessings, and of rejoicings, in the history of the Saints, had now arrived. While assembling themselves together from time to time, in the House of the Lord to fast and pray, speaking to each other of the goodness of God, offering up their spiritual and enlivening songs of gratitude and thanksgiving to Him who had again spoken from heaven, and spoken of good things near at hand for his people of all nations, they often experienced remarkable visitations of the goodness and power of God, showing his approval of their conduct and acceptance of his House. The aged fathers, leaning upon their staffs, would rise in the midst of their brethren, being filled with the Holy Ghost, and express their gratitude in flowing tears for the mercies of God towards them in giving them knowledge, before going down to the grave, of the restoration of the Priesthood, and fulness of the Gospel ; exhorting the young Elders to be virtuous, upright, and holy ; to go forth manfully, without fear, depending upon the God of Heaven, bearing a faithful testimony of the knowledge given them ; for, though *deficient in worldly* wisdom, the power of the Lord would be with them, and *they should not be confounded.* The youth, the middle aged, both men and women, clothed with the spirit of Inspiration, would speak, as with the tongue of angels, of the marvellous blessings which they had experienced, and the knowledge God had imparted unto them, concerning this great work preparatory to the coming of the Son of God. One would exercise the gift of Tongues, another that of Interpretation, and some would have the gift of Prophecy. One would speak of the blessings of Faith, another would testify of Knowledge, and some would have the spirit of Exhortation. Thus were their gifts exercised, and all edified together, proving they *lived* in the *time* of the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy, which saith : "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh ; and your sons, and your daughters shall prophesy ; your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions : and also upon the servants, and upon the handmaids, in those days, will I pour out my Spirit." (ii. 28, 29.) Those indeed were happy days. The sick were healed by the laying on of hands and anointing with oil : and, in some instances the dumb spake ; the deaf had their hearing restored ; and the blind received their sight. Hard indeed must be that heart that envies the Saints the possession of such blessings, when it is known what was the expense of the purchase which they afterwards paid. Indeed *we little suspected* the fiery trials that were in store, and scenes of devastation and bloodshed which followed.

As the testimony of these things was proclaimed from time to time, and the faith of the Saints became known among the people in the surrounding country, opposition and persecution increased. The wicked and more disorderly portion of the community, became more bold in their attacks upon the Saints and their property. Not unfrequently, they were secretly influenced, and supported by those who professed *piety and religion*, and to be *ministers* of Jesus Christ. At last, wearied of this endless scene of molestation, and such insufferable vexations, they concluded, like Abraham of old, to contend no longer for their rights ; but leaving the fruits of their labour with their enemies, flee to some more peaceful clime. Accordingly, they commenced leaving the country, and in the course of one year nearly all had left,

numbering about two thousand, having left at a sacrifice of, at least, two thirds of all their property.

They journied westward, some locating themselves in one place, and some in another, according to their means and circumstances. The major part went into the State of Missouri, many of whom located in Caldwell county. This occurred in the year 1838.

The attention of the reader will now be directed to that Branch of the Church which located in Jackson county. Here, we shall be under the necessity of relating troubles of a more serious character. The land being only one dollar and a quarter per acre,* the Saints, though generally poor, were enabled, many of them, to make very extensive purchases. By industry and perseverance, large farms were soon opened, orchards planted, mills and public buildings erected, institutions for education formed, a printing press established, the foundation for a Temple laid, and beautiful private dwellings began to appear in all directions upon those broad and beautiful prairies. To the settler having but little capital, it is presumed no country was ever discovered, possessing so many advantages as that which the Saints here occupied. It is described in the following language by one of the members of the colony:—"Unlike the timbered states in the east, except upon the rivers and water courses, which were verdantly dotted with trees; from one to three miles wide, as far as the eye can glance, the beautiful rolling prairies lay spread around like a sea of meadows. The timber is a mixture of oak, hickory, box, elder, and bass wood, together with the addition of cotton wood, bullon wood, pecon, soft and hard maple, upon the bottoms. The shrubbery was beautiful, and consisted in part of plums, grapes, crab-apples, and parsimmons. The prairies were decorated with a growth of flowers that seemed as gorgeous and grand as the brilliancy of stars in the heavens, and exceed description. The soil is rich and fertile, from three to ten feet deep, and generally composed of a rich black mould, intermingled with clay and sand. It produces in abundance, wheat, corn, and many other commodities, together with sweet potatoes and cotton." Here then was the place appointed of the Lord for his people to locate, and build Him a House in which they might worship him in purity and holiness, and his servants receive wisdom, knowledge, and power, and be prepared to go forth among all nations, kindreds, people, and languages, carrying the Everlasting Gospel, in fulfilment of John's prophecy, that all people might understand the near approach of the coming of the Son of Man, and the wise virgins trim their lamps, and be prepared. While they were peaceably and industriously pursuing this object, Satan began to stir up the people around to jealousy, envy, and hatred. Mob meetings were held in different parts of the country; resolutions passed, and measures entered into, to drive the Saints from their possessions. In the month of November, 1833, a ruthless and murderous mob, composed of many hundreds, armed with weapons of destruction, came suddenly upon the Saints, who were unprepared for defence, and drove men, women, and children from their lovely habitations. Their deep distress, and the severity of their sufferings, it is no pleasing duty to relate. Women were shamefully abused in the presence of their husbands, daughters in the presence of their parents; defenceless men were shot down like wild beasts of the forest; some while fleeing for their lives, were pursued, caught, tied to trees, and whipped till their bowels gushed out, and death ended their sufferings. Over two hundred of their houses were burned, the remainder were plundered, and their horses and cattle driven away. So suddenly were they compelled to flee, that only in a few instances, sufficient apparel could be taken to preserve them from the cold wintry blasts. The extreme sufferings of women and children may easily be imagined. In consequence of these severities, many perished by the way, before any kind hand of hospitality offered its relief. While the saints lay upon the cold bleak prairies, without a home, and without a friend except

* About 5s. 2¼d.

the God of Heaven, a very singular phenomenon appeared in the heavens, which created quite a panic among the mob, viz.: the meteoric shower, or shooting stars, which was seen in various parts of the world by many millions.

After this expulsion from Jackson county, they located in the upper portion of the same State, till the year 1838, when again they were assailed by a murderous mob, and having suffered the loss of many lives, and nearly all their property, were compelled to leave the state. To give the reader more particular information, respecting the persecutions of the Saints, and their expulsion from the State of Missouri, we present entire a Memorial which was laid before the Congress of the United States.

AMERICAN EXILES' MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

To the Honourable Senators and Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

"We, the undersigned, members of the city council of the city of Nauvoo, citizens of Hancock county, Illinois, and exiles from the State of Missouri, being in council assembled, unanimously and respectfully, for ourselves, and in behalf of many thousands of other exiles, memorialize the honourable Senators and Representatives of our nation, upon the subject of the unparalleled persecutions and cruelties inflicted upon us, and upon our constituents, by the constituted authorities of the State of Missouri; and likewise upon the subject of the present unfortunate circumstances in which we are placed in the land of our exile. As a history of the Missouri outrages has been extensively published, both in this country and in Europe, it is deemed unnecessary to particularize all of the wrongs and grievances inflicted upon us, in this Memorial, as there is an abundance of well-attested documents to which your honourable body can at any time refer; hence we only embody the following important items for your consideration:—

"First. Your memorialists, as free-born citizens of this great Republic, relying with the utmost confidence upon the sacred "Articles of the Constitution," by which the several States are bound together, and considering ourselves entitled to all the privileges and immunities of free citizens in what State soever we desired to locate ourselves, commenced a settlement in Jackson county, on the western frontiers of the State of Missouri, in the summer of 1831. There we purchased lands from government; erected several hundred houses; made extensive improvements; and shortly the wild and lonely prairies and stately forests were converted into well-cultivated and fruitful fields. There we expected to spend our days in the enjoyment of all the rights and liberties bequeathed to us by the sufferings and blood of our noble ancestors. But, alas! our expectations were vain. Two years had scarcely elapsed before we were unlawfully and unconstitutionally assailed by an organized mob, consisting of the highest officers in the county, both civil and military, who boldly and openly avowed their determination, in a written circular, to drive us from said county. As a specimen of their treasonable and cruel designs, your honourable body are referred to said circular, of which the following is but a short extract, namely, 'We, the undersigned, citizens of Jackson county, believing that an important crisis is at hand as regards our civil society, in consequence of a pretended religious sect of people that have settled and are still settling in our county, styling themselves Mormons; and intending, as we do, to rid our society, 'peaceably,' if we can—'forcibly,' if we must; and believing, as we do, that the arm of the civil law does not afford us a guarantee, or at least a sufficient one, against the evils which are now inflicted upon us, and seem to be increasing by the said religious sect, deem it expedient and of the highest importance, to form ourselves into a company for the better and easier accomplishment of our purpose.' This document was closed in the following words:—'We therefore agree, after timely warning, and receiving an adequate compensation for what little property they cannot take with them, they refuse to leave us in peace, as they found us, we agree to use such means as may be sufficient to remove them, and to that end we each pledge to each other our bodily powers, our lives, fortunes, and sacred honours.'

"To this unconstitutional document were attached the names of nearly every officer in the county, together with the names of hundreds of others. It was by this band of murderers, that your memorialists, in the year 1833, were plundered of their property, and robbed of their peaceable homes. It was by them their fields were laid

waste, their houses burned, and their men, women, and children, to the number of about twelve hundred persons, banished as exiles from the county, while others were cruelly murdered by their hands.

"Second. After our expulsion from Jackson county, we settled in Clay county, on the opposite side of the Missouri river, where we purchased lands both from the old settlers and from the Land Office; but soon we were again violently threatened by mobs, and obliged to leave our homes and seek out a new location.

"Third. Our next settlement was in Caldwell county, where we purchased the most of the lands in said county, besides a part of the lands in Davis and Carroll counties. These counties were almost entirely in a wild and uncultivated state; but by the persevering industry of our citizens, large and extensive farms were opened in every direction, well stocked with numerous flocks and herds. We also commenced settlements in several other counties of the State, and once more confidently hoped to enjoy the hard-earned fruits of our labour unmolested; but our hopes were soon blasted. The cruel and murderous spirit which first began to manifest itself in the constituted authorities and inhabitants of Jackson county, and afterwards in Clay and the surrounding counties, receiving no check either from the civil or military power of the State, had, in the meantime, taken courage, and boldly and fearlessly spread its contaminating and treasonable influence into every department of the government of said State. Lieutenant-Governor Boggs, a resident of Jackson county, who acted a conspicuous part in our expulsion from said county, instead of being tried for treason and rebellion against the Constitution, and suffering the just penalty of his crimes, was actually elected Governor, and placed in the executive chair. Thus the inhabitants of the State were greatly encouraged to renew with redoubled fury their unlawful attack upon our defenceless settlements. Men, women, and children were driven in every direction before their merciless persecutors. Robbed of their possessions, their property, their provisions, and their all; cast forth upon the bleak snowy prairies, houseless and unprotected, many sunk down and expired under their accumulated sufferings, while others, after enduring hunger and the severities of the season, suffering all but death, arrived in Caldwell county, to which place they were driven from all the surrounding counties only to witness a still more heart-rending scene. In vain had we appealed to the constituted authorities of Missouri for protection and redress of our former grievances; in vain we now stretched out our hands, and appealed as the citizens of this great Republic, to the sympathies—to the justice and magnanimity of those in power; in vain we implored, again and again, at the feet of Governor Boggs, our former persecutor, aid and protection against the ravages and murders now inflicted upon our defenceless and unoffending citizens. The cry of American citizens, already twice driven and deprived of liberty, could not penetrate their adamantine hearts. The Governor, instead of sending us aid, issued a proclamation for our EXTERMINATION and BANISHMENT; ordered out the forces of the State, placed them under the command of General Clarke, who, to execute these exterminating orders, marched several thousand troops into our settlements in Caldwell county, where, unrestrained by fear of law or justice, and urged on by the highest authority of the State, they laid waste our fields of corn, shot down our cattle and hogs for sport, burned our dwellings, inhumanly butchered some eighteen or twenty defenceless citizens, dragged from their hiding places little children, and placing the muzzles of their guns to their heads, shot them with the most horrid oaths and imprecations. An aged hero and patriot of the revolution, who served under General Washington, while in the act of pleading for quarters, was cruelly murdered and hewed in pieces with an old corn-cutter; and in addition to all these savage acts of barbarity, they forcibly dragged virtuous and inoffensive females from their dwellings, bound them upon benches used for public worship, where they, in great numbers, ravished them in a most brutal manner. Some fifty or sixty of the citizens were thrust into prisons and dungeons, where, bound in chains, they were fed on human flesh, while their families, and some fifteen thousand others, were at the point of the bayonet, forcibly expelled from the State. In the mean time, to pay the expenses of these horrid outrages, they confiscated our property, and robbed us of all our possessions. Before our final expulsion, with a faint and lingering hope, we petitioned the State Legislature, then in session, unwilling to believe that American citizens could appeal in vain for a restoration of liberty, cruelly wrested from them by cruel tyrants. But in the language of our noble ancestors, "our repeated petitions were only answered by repeated injuries." The Legislature, instead of hearing the cries of fifteen thousand suffering, bleeding, unoffending citizens, sanctioned and sealed the unconstitutional acts of the Governor and his troops, by appropriating two hundred thousand dollars to defray the expenses of exterminating us from the State.

"No friendly arm was stretched out to protect us. The last ray of hope for redress in that State was now entirely extinguished. We saw no other alternative but to bow down our necks, and wear the cruel yoke of oppression, and quietly and submissively suffer ourselves to be banished as exiles from our possessions, our property, and our sacred homes; or otherwise, see our wives and children coldly murdered and butchered by tyrants in power.

"Fourth. Our next permanent settlement was in the land of our exile, the State of Illinois, in the spring of 1839. But even here we are not secure from our relentless persecutor, the state of Missouri. Not satisfied in having drenched her soil in the blood of innocence, and expelling us from her borders, she pursues her unfortunate victims into banishment, seizing upon and kidnapping them in their defenceless moments, dragging them aeross the Mississippi River upon their inhospitable shores, where they are tortured, whipped, immured in dungeons, and hung by the neck without any legal process whatever. We have memorialized the former executive of this state, Governor Carlin, upon these lawless outrages committed upon our citizens, but he rendered us no protection. Missouri, receiving no cheek in her murderous career, continues her depredations, again and again kidnapping our citizens, and robbing us of our property; while others, who fortunately survived the execution of her bloody edicts, are again and again demanded by the executive of that State, on pretence of some crime, said to have been committed by them during the exterminating expedition against our people. As an instance, General Joseph Smith, one of your memorialists, has been three times demanded, tried, and acquitted by the courts of this State, upon investigation under writs of Habeas Corpus, once by the United States' court for the district of Illinois; again by the Circuit court of the State of Illinois; and lastly, by the Municipal court of the city of Nauvoo, when at the same time a *nulle prosequi* had been entered by the courts of Missouri, upon all the cases of that State against Joseph Smith and others. Thus the said Joseph Smith has been several times tried for the same alleged offence, put in jeopardy of life and limb, contrary to the fifth article of the amendments to the Constitution of these United States; and thus we have been continually barassed and robbed of our money to defray the expenses of those vexatious prosecutions. And what at the present time seems to be still more alarming, is the hostility manifested by some of the authorities and citizens of this State. Conventions have been called, inflammatory speeches made, and many unlawful and unconstitutional resolutions adopted, to deprive us of our rights, our liberties, and the peaceable enjoyment of our possessions. From the present hostile aspect, and from bitter experience in the State of Missouri, it is greatly feared that the barbarous scenes acted in that State will be reacted in this. If Missouri goes unpunished, others will be greatly encouraged to follow her murderous examples. The afflictions of your memorialists have already been overwhelming, too much for humanity, too much for American citizens to endure without complaint. We have groaned under the iron hand of tyranny and oppression these many years. We have been robbed of our property to the amount of two millions of dollars. We have been hunted as the wild beasts of the forest. We have seen our aged fathers who fought in the Revolution, and our innocent children, alike slaughtered by our persecutors. We have seen the fair daughters of American citizens insulted and abused in the most inhuman manner, and finally, we have seen fifteen thousand souls, men, women, and children, driven by force of arms, during the severities of winter, from their sacred homes and firesides, to a land of strangers, penniless and unprotected. Under all these afflicting circumstances, we imploringly stretch forth our hands towards the highest councils of our nation, and humbly appeal to the illustrious Senators and Representatives of a great and free people for redress and protection.

"Hear! O hear the petitioning voice of many thousands of American citizens who now groan in exile on Columbia's free soil. Hear, O hear the weeping and bitter lamentations of widows and orphans, whose husbands and fathers have been cruelly martyred in the land where the proud eagle exultingly floats. Let it not be recorded in the archives of the nations, that Columbia's exiles sought protection and redress at your hands, but sought it in vain. It is in your power to save us, our wives, and our children from a repetition of the blood-thirsty scenes of Missouri, and thus greatly relieve the fears of a persecuted and injured people, and your petitioners will ever pray."

The names of the petitioners are omitted for want of room.

The foregoing memorial was presented to Congress in the spring of 1844, making the third time that those horrid scenes of murder had been laid before them.

Does the reader request to know the cause of those horrid persecutions? I would ask, what caused the persecution against the Saints anciently? The answer of the one answers the other. It is acknowledged, however, a singular phenomenon in human nature, that a class of people, moral, virtuous, and innocent, should become an object of envy, hatred, malice, spoliation, and murder by their surrounding neighbours. Without entering into an explanation of the secret cause of this phenomenon of mind, we purpose only to present a few facts showing such is the nature of mankind, not only religiously, but morally considered. The most important moral, physical, and philosophical discoveries, have commonly been attended with persecution, imprisonment, confiscation of property, banishment, or martyrdom. The names of Seneca, Socrates, Columbus, Galileo, and Harvey, which *now* adorn the pages of history, were each in their turn, the butt of scorn, ridicule, and contempt; and so it generally has been with every man who has ever benefitted the human family. In religious discoveries the same effects have followed. Every religious reformation has been attended with more or less persecution and martyrdom, from righteous Abel down to the latest murder committed upon the Latter-day Saints. Abel, through some appointed means, obtained very important blessings from heaven; as soon as this was known, he became an object of hatred, and *was slain!* And so on to the coming of Christ like scenes followed in every age. Paul, speaking of persecution, says, "others had trial of cruel mockings, and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment; they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheep skins and goat skins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented: of whom the world was not worthy: they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and dens and caves of the earth." The occasion of those persecutions arose not from *their immorality*, but from their having received peculiar heavenly gifts and blessings. Jesus, the Son of God, when in the world, had no other object but the good of mankind, but when he began to affirm that God was *his* Father, and *he was one* with his Father, and was doing His will, jealousy was stirred up, envy arose, he was called seditious, an enemy to mankind, and his life was sought, and *finally taken*. His Twelve Apostles, without influence or learning, bore testimony of *knowledge actually* received, and of having authority to baptize both priests, and people, rich and poor, bond and free, with a promise of the Gift of the Holy Ghost. But what was the result? how were they received? were they accounted good, peaceable men, and well spoken of? *no! far from it*, most all people spoke against them, and no doubt considered them wicked, designing men; for they immediately set about whipping, stoning, imprisoning, and killing them. Their own brethren, the Jews, who were best acquainted with them, were the most *industriously* engaged in this business. Ministers of the Jewish laws, those educated for the purpose, and who made it their daily employment to expound, and teach the people the word of God delivered by the holy Prophets, were generally, the *foremost*, and most *bitter* in these crusades against Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the Saints. Had those persons who professed to understand the Scriptures, and to whom the people looked for proper explanations, been *honest* and *virtuous men*, and used a *righteous influence* with the people, thousands, in room of rejecting Jesus Christ and his Apostles, would have received their testimony. So, in reference to ourselves, had the Ministers and Clergy come to us like the good Jethro to Israel, with kind sympathy in their bosoms, and shown us that friendship which one religious class of people ought always to manifest for another, or had they used even a *moral influence* in our favour, the evils and cruelties heaped upon us by our enemies, would have been much lessened, and those persons, like Jethro, would have been spoken of with praise and honor to the latest ages of posterity. But, alas! few instances of this kind can be recorded. It is with pleasure, however, that we here mention, that in times of deep distress, brought upon the Saints by these persecutions, when large public meetings were called in various parts of the United States by the virtuous and honor-

able citizens of the country, to express their abhorrence and detestation of those crimes and cruelties, those professing themselves Ministers of the Gospel, in *some instances, came forward* at those meetings, and *discountenanced* the persecutions of the Saints. Such acts of nobleness, independence of mind, and human sympathy, *will not be forgotten.*

The relation of these scenes of persecution is not offered as direct evidence of the truth of our religion; but it is a plain evidence of the corruption of any people who persecute or look silently on without raising their voice, or influence, in behalf of the persecuted. The evidence of the Authenticity of our religion is to be found in the fact of our possessing the fruits of the ancient Gospel, the gifts and blessings promised the true believers; and if found in possession of these blessings, that is a sufficient explanation of the cause of those horrid persecutions.

Having been driven from Missouri, they then located in Illinois, in the spring of 1839, as mentioned in the memorial. Here they built up a beautiful city, called Nauvoo; obtained from the Legislature of the State a city Charter; organized several literary institutions; established a printing press; commenced another Temple; built a number of magnificent public edifices; opened hundreds and thousands of large and extensive plantations in the surrounding country; and sent forth hundreds of Elders as Missionaries into different parts of the world. Many began to indulge the fond hope of having *here* found an asylum of peace; and being no more troubled with their enemies, would be enabled to sit peaceably under the shade of their vine and fig tree, and enjoy the fruit of their labors. It was not long, however, before things transpired of a nature to convince them *this* anxiously looked for *period* had not yet arrived. Their enemies in Missouri, not satisfied with the cruelties and murders they had committed in driving them from the State, continued their molestations. Not receiving any check from the authorities of the country, they became emboldened in their aggressions. They soon found plenty of corrupt and abandoned characters in the State of Illinois, willing to co-operate with them in stirring up jealousy, and raising excitement among the people, in order more effectually to execute their murderous designs. Believing that the continuance and prosperity of the Saints were dependant on the existence of their Prophet, Joseph Smith, they set about concocting schemes for his destruction. By resorting to false accusations and perjury, they procured a State warrant for his apprehension, and also that of his brother Hyrum. Aware that their diabolical schemes would be frustrated if the prisoners had a legal trial, they succeeded in lodging them in Carthage gaol; *a place* where the Governor of the State pledged himself they should be protected, and secure from Mobs and violence; but in every respect it was only *suitable* for the accomplishment of their *bloody deeds.* On the 27th of June, 1844, while Joseph and Hyrum were in this situation, awaiting their trial on the following day, their enemies determined to execute their designs. About 5 o'clock p.m. of that day, an armed mob, painted black, of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred persons, rushed from the surrounding woods, drove away the sentinels guarding the prison, and poured through the door and windows a torrent of lead, *that laid the brothers low in the arms of death! Then fell two worthy men!* Everlasting honor and immortality is their portion, and their names henceforth are classified with Martyrs for Truth! When this sad event occurred, two of the Twelve Apostles, John Taylor and Willard Richards, were with them in prison, as visitors. The former received four balls in his body, the other escaped unharmed. These men live to tell the bloody tragedy which has *sealed disgrace* upon their country.

A few months previous to this murder, Joseph, in giving instructions to the Twelve in relation to the building up of Zion, preparatory to the coming of the Son of God, informed them, that *his work was finished on the earth,* and from that time, the responsibility of carrying the Gospel to every nation devolved upon *them*:—and, as he bid farewell to some friends, on leaving for

Carthage, he said: "*I am going like a lamb to the slaughter;* but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offence towards God, and towards all men: I shall die innocent, and it shall yet be said of me—*he was murdered in cold blood.*" An intimate acquaintance with those men from the early rise of the Church to their Martyrdom, justifies the writer in bearing this testimony, that *he knows* they were virtuous, honourable, and righteous men—men whom God loved, and whom all good men would have respected, loved, and honored, *had they known* their *true* character.

Contrary to the hopes and expectations of their enemies, the Saints continued to build their Temple, and attend to their ordinary labors. Petition after petition was presented to government for redress of their grievances; but a deaf ear was turned to their supplications. Their enemies, finding that no persecution, nor even the Martyrdom of their Prophet, could destroy their union, they determined to drive them from their city; at last, persecutions became so grievous and insufferable, that the Saints were forced to leave their houses in the depth of winter, and wander in the western wilderness.

In the beginning of February, 1846, President Brigham Young, the Twelve Apostles with their wives and families, and thousands of others, left the city of Nauvoo, travelling in a westerly direction, as they were guided by the Spirit of God. By reason of being exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and having only the thin covering of tents and waggons to protect them from its fury, many who had previously suffered from persecution could endure no longer, and fell asleep in death.

Having journied two hundred miles, they encamped, and made a temporary settlement, called Garden Grove: forty miles in advance of this, they made another called Mount Pisgah: one hundred and fifty miles beyond this, they made a third settlement at Council Bluffs. While here resting from the fatigue of journeying, many were overtaken with sickness which was the result of former severe privations. In the midst of their troubles, at a time when every man was required, more than ever, to watch over and protect his helpless wife and family from the hordes of savage Indians and wild beasts of the forest, with which they were surrounded, a message was received from the President of the United States, requesting five hundred men to enter the army, and march against the Mexicans. This demand, though strange and heartrending, was complied with; five hundred men were thus taken from the camps of the Saints, leaving behind them, fathers, mothers, wives, and children, in the midst of afflictions, many of whom were dwelling in miserable log huts, tents, and waggons, with scarcely the common necessaries of life.

A few months after their departure, their enemies still burning with rage, and finding the body of the Saints beyond their reach, made an attack on those remaining in Nauvoo; an account of which we extract from a General Epistle of the Twelve, Dec. 23, 1847.

"In September, 1846, an infuriated mob, clad in all the horrors of war, fell on the Saints who had still remained in Nauvoo for want of means to remove; murdered some, and drove the remainder across the Mississippi into Iowa, where, destitute of houses, tents, food, clothing, or money, they received temporary assistance from some benevolent souls in Quincy, St. Louis, and other places, whose names will ever be remembered with gratitude. But at that period the Saints were obliged to scatter to the north, south, east, and west, wherever they could find shelter and procure employment. And, hard as it is to write it,—it must ever remain a truth on the page of history;—that while the flower of Israel's camp were sustaining the wings of the American Eagle, by their influence and arms, in a foreign country, their brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, and children, were driven by mob violence from a free and independant State, of the same national Republic, and were compelled to flee from the fire, the sword, the musket, and the cannon's mouth, as from the demon of death. * * * Their property in Hancock County, Illinois, was little or no better than confiscated: many of their houses were burned by the mob, and they were obliged to

leave most of those that remained, without sale; and those who bargained sold almost for a song; for the influence of their enemies was to cause such a diminution in the value of property, that from a handsome estate was seldom realised enough to remove the family comfortably away; and thousands have since been wandering to and fro, destitute, afflicted, and distressed for the common necessaries of life, or unable to endure, have sickened, and died by hundreds; while the Temple of the Lord is left solitary in the midst of our enemies; an enduring monument of the diligence and integrity of the Saints."

While the Saints were passing through those scenes of persecutions, suffering, and deep affliction, many glorious manifestations of Divine approbation were given them, which we should have been happy here to record, did our limits and the nature of the work admit.

The Saints in the wilderness continued their journeying as circumstances would allow; having to cut their way through woods, and valleys, over rivers and mountains, a distance of fourteen hundred miles. At length, on the 21st July, 1847, the Pioneers discovered a beautiful valley beyond the "Pass" of the great Rocky Mountains, being a portion of the Great Basin of Upper California, near the southern shore of the Great Salt Lake. On the 24th the President and first company entered this, their present home; other companies, year after year, continue their emigration to this point. Here Israel will remain till the indignation of an offended God is poured out upon the nations. Here will peace and happiness dwell, while nation is at war with nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and here the people of "many nations shall come and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem," Micah iv. 2.

Though persecution, poverty, sickness, and trials of every description, have come upon this people, they have stood the fiery trial, and given evidence to all men, to angels, and to God, of their faith, virtue and fidelity. Now the Church of the living God, far beyond the reach of mobs and strife, in her hiding place, shall grow like a tree planted by rivers of waters, till "she looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." Cant. vi. 10.

As we have had to describe scenes of sorrow and suffering, harrowing to the feelings of the virtuous, we feel happy, indeed, that we can now direct the reader to the present favorable situation of the Saints. The following extract we take from the same General Epistle:—

"We are at peace with all nations, with all kingdoms, with all powers, with all governments, with all authorities under the whole heavens, except the kingdom and power of darkness, which are from beneath, and are ready to stretch forth our arms to the four quarters of the globe, extending salvation to every honest soul: for our mission in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth; and the blessing of the Lord is upon us; and when every other arm shall fail, the power of the Almighty will be manifest in our behalf; for we ask nothing but what is right, we want nothing but what is right, and God has said that our strength shall be equal to our day; and we invite all Presidents, and Emperors, and Kings, and Princes, and Nobles, and Governors, and Rulers, and Judges, and all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, under the whole heaven, to come and help us to build a house to the name of the God of Jacob, a place of peace, a city of rest, a habitation for the oppressed of every clime, even for those that love their neighbour as they do themselves, and who are willing to do as they would be done unto; and this we are determined to do, and we will do, God being our helper: and we will help every one that will help to sustain good and wholesome laws for the protection of virtue, and the punishment of vice.

"The kingdom which we are establishing, is not of this world; but it is the Kingdom of the great God. It is the fruit of righteousness, of peace, of salvation to every soul that will receive it, from Adam down to his latest posterity. Our good will is towards all men, and we desire their salvation in time and eternity; and we will do them good so far as God will give us the power, and men will permit us the privilege, and we

will harm no man; but if men will rise up against the power of the Almighty to overthrow his cause, let them know assuredly, that they are running on the bosses of Jehovah's buckler, and as God lives, they will be overthrown.

"Come, then, ye Saints; come, then, ye honourable men of the earth; come, then, ye wise, ye learned, ye rich, ye noble, according to the riches, and wisdom, and knowledge of the great Jehovah, from all nations, and kindreds, and kingdoms, and tongues, and people, and dialects, on the face of the whole earth, and join the standard of Emanuel, and help us to build up the Kingdom of God, and establish the principles of truth, life, and salvation, and you shall receive your reward among the sanctified, when the Lord Jesus Christ cometh to make up his jewels; and no power on earth, or in hell, can prevail against you. * * * *

"Come, then, ye Saints of Latter-day, and all ye great and small, wise and foolish, rich and poor, noble and ignoble, exalted and persecuted, rulers and ruled of the earth, who love virtue and hate vice, and help us to do this work, which the Lord hath required at our hands, and inasmuch as the glory of the latter house shall exceed that of the former, your reward shall be an hundredfold, and your rest shall be glorious. Our universal motto is, "*Peace with God, and good will to all men.*"

The following we extract from a private letter written in the Valley respecting their peace and prosperity:—

"All is stillness. No elections, no police reports, no murders, no wars in our little world. How quiet, how still, how peaceful, how happy, how free from excitement we live. Our old firelocks have not been rubbed up, or our swords unsheathed because of any alarm. No policemen, or watchmen of any kind, have been on duty to guard us from external or internal danger. The drum has beat to be sure, but it was mingled with merry making, or its martial sound was rather to remind us that war had once been known among the nations, than to arouse us to tread the martial and measured step of those who muster for the war, or march to the battle field. Oh, what a life we live! It is the dream of the poets actually fulfilled in real life. Here we can cultivate the mind, renew the spirits, invigorate the body, cheer the heart, and ennoble the soul of man. Here we can cultivate every science, and every art, calculated to enlarge the mind, accommodate the body, or polish or adorn our race. And here we can receive, and extend that pure intelligence which is unmingled with the jargon of mystic Babylon, and which will fit a man, after a long life of health and usefulness, to enjoy the mansions of bliss, and the society of those who are purified in the blood of the Lamb.

"Here no prisoners groan in solitary cells: no chains or fetters bind the limbs of man; no slave exists to tremble, toil, and sweat for nought, or fear and crouch full low to please his fellow man. Here all are free to do right, and are warned, and chastened and corrected if caught in doing wrong.

"Here, too, we all are rich—there is no real poverty; all men have access to the *soil, the pasture, the timber, the water power, and all the elements of wealth, without money or price.*"

In this peaceful country many thousand Saints have already assembled. They have laid out a city called "Great Salt Lake City." In addition to their private dwellings, they have raised several elegant and magnificent public buildings. Many mills are in operation, and factories also in course of erection. Public Institutions for education have been established; one of these the State Legislature has endowed with an annual sum of five thousand dollars for the term of twenty years. Having come "up through great tribulation," they are not forgetful in their prosperity of their brethren who are still in adversity, scattered among the nations. Accordingly, they have established a "Perpetual Emigrating Fund" for the emigration of the poor. Many thousand dollars have already been donated for this purpose. As the gathering of Israel from every nation has been decreed by the Lord, this Fund has been so arranged as to be increased to millions, by which the poor and virtuous among men can be assisted, and with perfect assurance lift up their heads and rejoice, for the hour of their deliverance is nigh!

In the same valley, and others adjacent, they are establishing other cities; while the country around is appropriated to farming purposes. And thus "the wilderness, and the solitary place, shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." Every thing necessary to their

comfort and refinement will continue to flow with the tide of emigration. The wisdom and ingenuity of the industrious will soon enable the sons and daughters of God to be arrayed with the workmanship of their own hands.

Four hundred miles south of the Great Salt Lake City, an extensive settlement is being made. Likewise one on the borders of the Pacific Ocean, near to the Port of San Diego. They have also organized a State government, called the "State of Deseret," and have now their claims for admission into the Federal Union, before the Congress of the United States.*

That the reader may understand how this people are viewed by the public at large, we subjoin the following extract from an American newspaper.

"We wish to call the reader's attention to the new and most extraordinary condition of the Saints. Several thousand of them have found a resting place in the most remarkable spot on the North American Continent. Since the children of Israel wandered through the Wilderness, or the Crusaders rushed on Palestine, there has been nothing so historically singular as the emigration and recent settlement of the Saints. Thousands of them came from the Manchesters and Sheffields of England, to join other thousands congregated from Western New York and New England—boasted descendants of the pilgrim fathers—together to establish a colony in the west. Having a temple amid the churches and schools of Lake County, Ohio, and driven from it by popular opinion, they build the Nauvoo of Illinois. It becomes a great town: twenty thousand people flock to it. They are again assaulted by popular persecution; their Prophet murdered; their town depopulated; and finally, their temple burned. Does all this persecution to which they have been subjected, destroy them? Not at all. Seven thousand are now settled in flourishing circumstances, on the Plateau summit of the North American continent. Thousands more are about to join them from Iowa, and thousands more are coming from Wales. The spectacle is most singular, and this is one of the singular episodes of the great drama of this age. The spot on which the Saints are now settled, is geographically, one of the most interesting in the western world."—*Cincinnati Atlas.*

In concluding this brief history of the temporal situation of the Saints, we feel peculiar pleasure in being able to leave them in such prosperous circumstances. The wisdom, cunning, and powers of men, have been exerted to stay the progress of Truth, and destroy the union of the Saints; but their efforts have only been a melancholy exhibition of *their own folly* and *wickedness*, and produced the *opposite* of their intention. By this practical lesson may all people learn that the *purposes* of God *cannot be overthrown.*

Now "the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort her waste places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord: joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody." Isaiah li. 3. For he hath said, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee; for, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." lx. 1—3.

As we have traced the history of the body of the Church, we will now very briefly glance at the labors of the Elders, during the same period.

We have already observed, that those whom God called to publish his Gospel, were not the mighty of the earth,—according to the wisdom, and learning of the world; but they were honest, and pure in heart. Men who "counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ;" and to spread abroad this knowledge they made every possible sacrifice. They willingly set aside every worldly interest, the comforts of home and friends, and went forth preaching every where they had opportunity. Whithersoever they went, the Lord confirmed their testimony by his Spirit; thereby thou-

* Since writing the foregoing, a Territorial Government has been granted to the Latter-day Saints by the Congress of the United States, and Brigham Young, the President of the Church, appointed Governor.

sands were led to forsake their false and discordant religions, and become obedient to the Gospel. By repenting of their sins at the command of God, and being baptized by His servants, who had received a delegation of Authority from Heaven, they received the remission of their sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost, which enabled them to know for themselves it was the work of God.

As the Lord does not hire, but commands men to do his work, he required them to go forth without purse and scrip, and try the world. In accomplishing this work, great indeed were the privations they had to endure. Though many received their message with joy, and gladly obeyed its requirements,—many opposed and persecuted. Those "whose craft was in danger," were most bitter in their opposition; but all their efforts to stop the progress of Truth only accelerated its speed. "So mightily grew the word of God, and prevailed," that in a few years churches were established in the principal towns and cities of the United States, and in the Canadas.

In the year 1837 a few of the Twelve Apostles, and other Elders, in obedience to the command of God, left their native land to introduce the Gospel in Great Britain. At first a few meeting houses and churches were opened for their use; but shortly afterwards, all were shut against them: nevertheless they persevered, and the Lord crowned their labors with success. As it was in America, so in England, some rejoiced in the restoration of the ancient Gospel, while others mocked, derided, and persecuted. Since its introduction, it has spread into every county in England and Wales; and through Scotland, Ireland, and the Islands of the British Channel. Churches are established in the principal towns and cities, and in many of the surrounding villages of those countries, so that at present, there are between forty and fifty thousand Saints in Her Britannic Majesty's dominions. Favourable accounts have also been received of the spread of Truth in France, Denmark, Australia, and the East Indies. In the Islands of the Pacific Ocean, three thousand souls have been turned from their idolatrous and superstitious worship, and become obedient to the light of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While this unparalleled work has been performed, the Twelve have ever been foremost in introducing the Gospel in foreign lands; bearing the burden and heat of the day: and while the Saints are comfortably situated in the Valley, in the enjoyment of the blessings of heaven and earth, they are far from their families, travelling on both continents. Wherever they have gone, the word has been established in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; and through faith, and supplication, the sick and afflicted have been restored, the lame have been made to walk, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak, and the blind to see. The knowledge of these things is possessed by the Saints, as they are of frequent occurrence. For bearing testimony of them, they have suffered the persecution we have related; and while it ever remains a witness against the wicked, it is an *imperishable monument* of the worthiness of God's people to inherit that crown of life which fadeth not away, eternal in the heavens.

While the Word has been so extensively preached, it has also been widely published by the Press. Many thousand copies of the Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, have been published in America and Great Britain. Besides those standard works, many other lesser works of great importance have also been published, and many thousand copies of Pamphlets, and Replies to objectors, in both countries. During the residence of the Saints in Ohio and Missouri, they issued two periodicals, called the "Messenger and Advocate;" and "Evening and Morning Star." In Illinois they had other two periodicals, called the "Times and Seasons," and "Nauvoo Neighbour." In the cities of New York and Philadelphia, where large and influential Churches were established, they published two others, called "The Prophet," and "Gospel Reflector." Those papers and periodicals obtained extensive circulation, through which the word of God was strenuously ad-

vocated. In 1840 a periodical, entitled "The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star," was commenced in England, and is now published at Liverpool, having obtained a weekly circulation of upwards of twenty-three thousand copies. In Wales they have established a publication called "Zion's Trumpet." On the Western frontier of the United States, there is a large newspaper published, called the "Frontier Guardian."* Those papers are conducted by the Elders with great ability, and much good has been effected through their instrumentality.†

Thus in the short space of twenty years, a Work has been accomplished without a parallel in the world's history. A Work which has been tested on every side; it has been the object of misrepresentation in every part of the world; it has been opposed by the most talented Theologians; it has overcome difficulties the most appalling; it has passed through trials the most fiery, and like gold issuing from the furnace, has shone brighter, and brighter; and while it has surmounted every obstacle, it has not only shown that "Truth is mighty, and will prevail," but has also shown that it has been sustained by One whose arm is Omnipotent, and whose word shall be fulfilled and work accomplished, though earth and hell oppose.

* This paper is no longer an organ of the Church, as the Saints have removed from that locality to Utah Territory.

† Since the Italian edition of this Pamphlet the Book of Mormon has been published in the Danish, French, Italian, Welsh, and German languages; and we have Periodicals issued at Copenhagen, Paris, Hamburgh, and in Utah Territory.

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